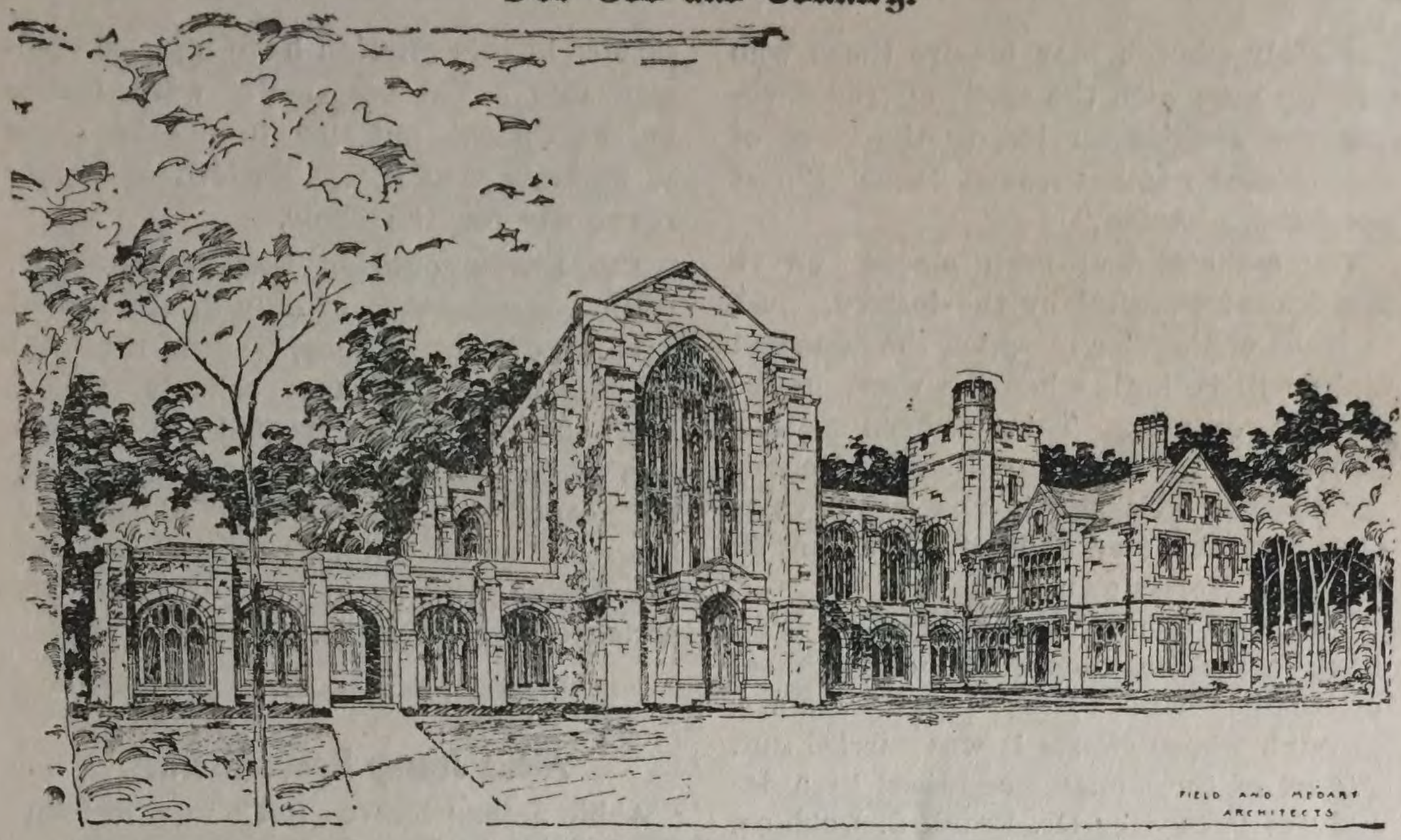
"For God and Country.



Cloister of the Colonies. Washington Memorial Chapel. Patriots' Hall. Tower and Library

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moors of England—is so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."

—CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY.

The Washington Chapel Chronicle

Valley Forge.

A RECORD OF RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE WASHINGTON CHAPEL GUILD.

MISS EMMA W. CRAWFORD, Editor. MRS. ROBERT WOOD, Business Manager

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Easter at the Chapel.

THE DEDICATION OF THE WASHINGTON BURK MEMORIAL.

Easter, 1912, will long be remembered by members of the Washington Memorial Chapel, for the services were most inspiring. Our choir never sang better, as Miss Hibbs and Miss Pugh had done faithful work in preparation for the joyous day.

The first service was at six o'clock, and for even this a large congregation assembled. After morning prayer, with its uplifting Resurrection lessons, a memorial of Mrs. Burk was dedicated. During the program her little namesake, Abbie Reeves Carter, drew aside the flag that had veiled the handsome bronze, and Mr. Burk standing by it, offered this prayer of dedication:

"Blessed be Thy Name, O Lord God, for that it hath pleased Thee to put it into the hearts of Thy servants to give this statuette to Thy honour and glory and to the memory of Thy servants whose joy was Thy service and whose heart's desire was Thy worship; and grant that the remembrance of their love for Thee and

Thy Holy Church may inspire those who worship here with the spirit of true devotion and zealous service, to the glory of Thy blessed name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The stauette had been placed on a flag-draped pedestal by the lectern, just in front of the pier in which the canopied niche will be built when the work on the walls is resumed. This has been specially designed by Mr. Milton Bennett Medary for the statuette and is now about completed in the works of Mr. William M. Sullivan, Norristown.

The plan to place a memorial of Mrs. Burk in the Washington Memorial Chapel originated with Mrs. Leslie Jefferis, through whose efforts it was carried out. A part of the money was raised by a delightful lecture by Dr. Frank S. Dobbins, given in All Saints' Parish House, who not only helped forward the movement, but gave real pleasure to his hearers. But most of the money was given by the friends of Mrs. Burk—those who appreciated her noble devotion and her devoted services.

The inscription prepared for the memorial is:

In thankful Remembrance of
God's gracious support
of His Servant
George Washington
in his Days of Trial at
Valley Forge
ad in loving Memory of
Abbie J. Reeves Burk
whose patriotism and Devotion
are embodied in this Chapel
this Statuette is given by her friends
Easter, 1912.

At the Easter Festival, which took the place of the regular service, the members of the Sunday school made an offering of $47.15.

The Easter Festival at King-of-Prussia was held in the Parish House, and was marked by the introduction of a vested choir under the leadership of Miss Mary Pugh, whose efficient and faithful service in this mission have been so commendable. The vestments were loaned by the Chapel, but the innovation was so pleasing that it was decided to supply vestments for the choir.

The Easter offering was remarkable. With a membership of only 27 the school gave $44.67 for missions, making the total offering of the Sunday schools $91.82. With the enthusiasm created the inspiration of the services of the great Sunday, the people were made more ready for the life work of the doings before them, and the Easter joy was to them the real experience of their souls.

Abbie Jessup Reeves Burk.

Abbie Jessup Reeves Burk was born in Clarksboro, N. J., and was a descendant of the hardy pioneers who first settled in Gloucester county. Her father was Jussup L. Reeves, whose high character won for him the esteem of his neighbors. At the organization of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, of Woodbury, N. J., he was made president, which office he held to the time of his death. He was for years a faithful vestryman of St. Peter's Church, Clarksboro.

Her mother was Rebecca Jessup.

Mrs. Burk's early life gave the promise and pledge of those later days crowned with good works. For miles around her village home she was known and honored for her deeds of mercy and love. The years of tender care of her invalid mother, of devotion to her father and her youngest brother, made a lasting impression upon all who witnessed the life of self-forgetfulness. Her sound judgment, strong sense of justice, her uprightness and religious zeal, her practical ability and her loyalty to her family, her friends, her country, Church and God, made her a bulwark to the weak and an inspiration to the strong. Her religion was free from cant, or strain, the natural life in God both in the home and in the sanctuary.

To St. Peter's Church, Clarksboro, she gave herself, her services and her substance. As a teacher in the Sunday school she co-operated with the superintendent, her future husband, in all those movements that led to the development of that part of the parish life. The result was better accommodations, better instruction and larger attendance. The present rectory is a monument to her wisdom, zeal and generosity, for while others worked and gave, the purpose, the plan and advancement were her workmanship.

She founded the Clarksboro Flower and Fruit Mission, and that at All Saints' Church, Norristown, and helped in the establishment and development of that at Woodbury, N. J. For years her work was not done until the last flower had found its way to the hand of some poor suffering child of God in the wards of the Episcopal Hospital and a message of hope and encouragement had come to the sad heart. The strenuous day that had begun at dawn among the dew-spangled flowers in the gardens ended in the crowded wards of the hospital of the grimy, stifling city. Nor was the work a machine-like labor. The many specials, made with loving thought of some individual fondness for some favorite blossom, or some color scheme, told of the love that made the long hours short and the heavy hampers light. It was the love that opened closed gardens to her and brought happiness to those who gave up their choicest blooms without a pang of remorse and without a spoken plea for her helpless charges.

Her marriage in Christ Church, Woodbury, N. J., on September 25, 1893, to the Rev. W. Herbert Burk, assistant minister in St. John's Church, Norristown, after an engagement of seven years and a love of almost as many years, was the beginning of a life whose every day brought deeper love and greater happiness.

Mr. and Mrs. Burk set themselves to the task of building up All Saints' Church, and here as in their village home no labor was too hard and no sacrifice too great for the people whom they served. During the first seven years it cost them more than $2000 above their salary to carry on their work, and that was the least of their sacrifices.

Mrs. Burk was as patriotic as she was religious. Here again her love of country sought for concrete expression, and she was eager to pay every cent of tax or duty as some expression of her appreciation of the national blessings which she enjoyed. To her the Washington Memorial Chapel appealed most strongly.

The temporary chapel was built upon her representations to the Vestry, and with her own hands she helped to clear the ground on which it was erected. To her ability was largely due the successful celebrations at the Chapel, where every detail of the entertainment was clearly foreseen and provided for, and she and her husband worked with such perfect understanding and adjustment that a day at the Washington Memorial Chapel came to be for many a day of pure delight.

She had the great joy of seeing All Saints' grow in numbers and spiritual power, until at the time of her death it was one of the ideal parishes of the Diocese, and the Washington Memorial Chapel become a National shrine. The laborer's work of love done. Mrs. Burk entered upon the rest and peace of paradise January 17, 1907.

By a provision of her will one thousand dollars was left to All Saints' Church for the support of the Sunday school and rector, and a like amount to the Trustees of the Diocese "for the maintenance of the work at the Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge." Both funds are to be called the "Rev. W. Herbert Burk Fund."

The Rector preached at the noon-day services in St. Paul's Church, Camden, N. J., on March 28, 29, 30. On Sunday evening, March 31, he preached in Calvary Church, Conshohocken.

Washington Memorial Chapel,
Valley Forge, Pa.

THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK, B. D.
RECTOR

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Mr. Charles Wells Walker,
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Devon, Pa.
Mr. Frank Quigg,
Rector's Warden,
Port Kennedy, Pa.

Mr. Charles Wells Walker, Treasurer,
Devon, Pa.
Mr. S. Col. Summerill, Secretary,
Port Kennedy, Pa.
Mr. Leslie Jefferis,
Treasurer of the Building Fund,
Bridgeport, Pa.
Mr. Clayland Stephens Walker,
Treasurer of the Cemetery,
Centreville, Pa.

VESTRYMEN.

Mr. Edward H. Binns, Mr. Thomas H Dobson, Gen. B. F. Fisher, Mr. Nathan B. Hughes, Mr. Leslie Jefferis, Mr. Frank Quigg, Mr. S. Col. Summerill, Mr. Clayland Stephens Walker, Mr. Charles Wells Walker.

Miss Mary M. Hibbs, Chorister.
Chapel Telephones—3514 and 18L,
Port Kennedy.

Calendar.

Sundays.

10.45 A. M. Service and Sermon.
2.30 P. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.
3.45 P. M. Service and Sermon.
Holy Communion, First Sunday.
The Parish House, King-of-Prussia:
9 A. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.
7.30 P. M. Service and Sermon.
Saints' Days, 9.30 A. M. Holy Communion.

APRIL.

19. Confirmation Lecture, 7.30 p. m.
21. Second Sunday after Easter.
25. St. Thomas, the Evangelist.
26. Confirmation Lecture, 7.30 p. m.
28. Third Sunday after Easter.

MAY.

1. St. Philip and St. James.
3 P. M. Meeting of the Guild.
3. 7.30 P. M. Confirmation Lecture.
5. Fourth Sunday after Easter.
10. 7.30 P. M. Confirmation Lecture.
12. Fifth Sunday after Easter.
13. Rogation Day.
14. Rogation Day.

The apostolic rite of Confirmation will be administered on Trinity Sunday, June 2, by the Bishop Suffragen of the Diocese.

Photograph of General Grant.

Mr. F. Gutekunst, who has photographed so many famous Americans, has given to the Valley Forge Museum of American History a photograph of General U. S. Grant and a reproduction of his letter of acknowledgment. These will be framed together. The letter is as follows:

Headquarters Armies of the United States.
Washington, March 10, 1866.

F. Gutekunst, Esq.

My Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the photographs & cartes you have been good enough to send me. I believe there has been no better likeness taken of me than those from your establishment.

Yours truly,
U. S. Grant.

The Reorganization of the Vestry.

The Vestry in reorganizing elected Mr. Charles Wells Walker, Vestry's Warden, and Mr. S. Col. Summerill, Secretary. As Mr. Frank Quigg declined a re-election of Treasurer, either of the Parish or the Cemetery, Mr. Charles Wells Walker was elected treasurer and Mr. S. Clay Walker, Treasurer of the Cemetery Fund. Mr. Burk appointed Mr. Quigg, Rector's Warden. The Delegates to Convention were re-elected, namely: Messrs. Thomas Dobson, Nathan B. Hughes and Charles Wells Walker.

"Valley Forge."

THE WASHINGTON-BURK MEMORIAL.

No more beautiful memorial of Mrs. Burk could have been chosen than the bronze statuette, "Valley Forge." Its artistic worth and historic significance make it a notable addition to the interest of Valley Forge and the enrichment of the Chapel. In a remarkable way the artist has represented Washington bearing the burdens of Valley Forge. Its difficulties are manifest, but through them and above them one feels the spirit of the man who could meet them and resolve them into victories—who could through all suffering and want hold his soldiers "by his awe in hollow-eyed content."

The statue is pronounced by competent critics to rank second only to Houdon s immortal work that stands in the capitol at Richmond. It is the work of Franklin Simmons, the eminent American sculptor. Mr. Welsh, who saw the stauettes in the studio in Rome felt it ought to be at Valley Forge and called Dean Burk's attention to it. When Mrs. Jefferis asked him to select a memorial of his wife he chose this work of art.

The statuette was cast by Nisini, Rome, and imported by Tiffany & Co., New York.

Mr. Burk had corresponded directly with Mr. Simmons on the subject, and had intended to import it for the Chapel, but later it was decided to purchase it through the New York firm. In one of his letters Mr. Simmons said:

"I would be pleased for you to have the figurine and it seems to me that Valley Forge is the best place in the world for it."

THE SCULPTOR, FRANKLIN SIMMONS.

Lillian Whitney, in an article in the 'Twentieth Century Magazine," says:

"No call to art has been more unmistakable than that of Franklin Simmons, the distinguished American sculptor, whose home has been in Rome for more than forty years. . . . During all his long residence in Italy, Mr. Simmons has kept in touch with his own country by repeated and frequent visits, sometimes extending over an entire season. He has been singularly fortunate in a wide American recognition, having received a liberal share of the more important commissions for great public monumental works. The latest of these was that of the statue of Alexander Hamilton, in bronze, in Paterson, New Jersey, which was unveiled in May of 1907. The splendidly poised figure, instinct with dignity and serene strength, expressing, too, an intense energy and power, offers something of a revolution in the art of the portrait statue. One of his first public works, if not, indeed, the initial one of his commissions from Rome, was the statue of the poet Longfellow—the commission being from Portland, his native city. It is an al fresco statue, representing the poet as seated, with his benignant, meditative look—a creation of impressive grace and beauty, with somewhat of the atmosphere of the very spirit of poetry.

Among other early works of Mr. Simmons were the portrait statues of General Grant, Governor William King, Roger Williams and Francis H. Pierrepoint, all in Statuary Hall in the Capitol in Washington; the portrait busts of Grant, Sheridan, Porter, Hooker, Thomas and other heroes of the Civil War; and the colossal group of the Naval Monument at the head of Pennsylvania avenue in the Capitol. Both the portrait bust and the statue of General Grant are works of especial significance. He modelled the bust of Grant while he was the General's guest in camp, taking advantage of whatever spare minutes the over-burdened commander could give in the midst of his most pressing responsibilities; and it is perhaps due to this unusually intimate intercourse under difficult conditions that the rapport, not strange between two men whose natures were akin in a certain noble sincerity and lofty patriotism, is suggested, and it may be to this that the artist owed the power

with which he interpreted the essential characteristics of General Grant in this immortal portrait statue in the Capitol.

The artist, like the poet, is born and not made, and Mr. Simmons is no exception, for in his earliest childhood he gave evidence of his artistic bent. After graduating from Bates College, he modelled a bust of its president, and, a little later, going to Washington (in the winter of 1865-66) modelled the busts of many of the noted men of the time, in a series which he then executed; and his genius impressed itself on his sitters by its dignity of conception and its remarkable power of sympathetic interpretation.

Washington is, indeed, the place to study all the earlier work of Franklin Simmons. The splendid Logan memorial group captivates the eye of every student of the sculptor's art. It is justly considered the finest group of sculpture in the Capitol, and it is the only statue in the United States in which both the pedestal and group are of bronze. This work is the fruition of many years of intense concentration and labor. When Congress decided upon erecting this memorial to General Logan, Mr. Simmons was requested to prepare a model. It proved to be eminently acceptable and he found himself swiftly launched upon this arduous work. For in the conception of Mr. Simmons it was to be not the embodiment of a single idea—that of a brave and gallant military leader, as in the memorials of Scott, Sherman, Sheridan, Thomas and others—but rather a permanent interpretation of a complex character, that of the soldier-statesman, mounted on his battle-horse; it was to be, in the mental conception of the sculptor, a representation of a complicated life and individuality; and even more, he demanded of his genius that the monument should also reflect and suggest the complex spirit of the age. In this martial figure there was therefore to be expressed a manifold and mysterious relation, as one of the potent leaders and directive powers in an age of strife and carnage, whose goal was yet peace; of adverse conditions and reactions whose manifest outcome was destined to be prosperity and national greatness and moral triumph. All these, Mr. Simmons felt, must be suggested in the very atmosphere of the work. It was a remarkable undertaking. No artist who was not a patriot in mind and heart, and also identified with the nation's ideals, could ever have produced such a work as that of the Logan monument. When this colossal creation was cast in bronze, in Rome, the event was considered important. The King and the Royal Family visited the studio of Mr. Simmons to see the group, and so powerfully did its excellence appeal to King Umberto that he knighted Mr. Simmons, making him Cavaliere of the Crown of Italy. Since that time Mr. Simmons has received still another and a higher decoration from the King.

Nor was the sculptor without recognition from his own country, for his Alma Mater bestowed upon him the degree of M. A. within swiftly successive years.

It is, however, in the realm of the purely ideal that Mr. Simmons has found his most congenial work. A bas-relief entitled "The Genius of Progress Leading the Nations," is a work of exceptional interest, the motif being the portrayal of the spirits of Life and Light and Goodness beating down and driving out the spirits of Darkness and Evil. Another inspiring creation is called "The Angel of the Resurrection," a figure holding all the glad, triumphant assertion of the power of immortal life. In "The Mother of Moses" is felt all the poetry and sacredness of maternity. The mother, holding her child, is looking into its face with an inscrutable expresssion as if she were gazing into the future years. A "Galatea" is as purely classic as if it were the work of a Greek sculptor; and the "Medusa" images, a new conception of the fabled story. Mr. Simmons conceives her at the moment when Juno has launched her curse, and Medusa, wistfully, is holding up a tress of her hair to see if, in-

deed the dread result is to appear. One of the most charming of these ideal statues is "Penelope," represented as seated in a chair, her rich robe falling around her in gracful folds, and the little Greek fillet binding her hair. The face wears a meditative expression, into which the observer feels has just entered a hint of pathos, a wistful wonder as to whether, after all, Ulysses will return.

The United Offering.

The annual missionary meeting was held this year at the residence of Mrs. Charles Wells Walker on Wednesday afternoon, March 27th, and was the most important in the history of the parish. The attendance was unusually large, several of the neighboring parishes being represented.

After a hymn and prayers, Mr. Burk introduced Mrs. George C. Thomas, the Diocesan Treasurer of the United Offering, to whose devoted services in this important field of the church's work so much is due. Mrs. Thomas won the hearts of her hearers by her unaffected statement of the purpose, plan and result of the United Offering of the women of the Church. Her own love for the work and her enthusiasm were felt in every word, and made a lasting impression upon all present.

Mr. Burk expressed not only the gratitude of the meeting for the information and inspiration that Mrs. Thomas had given, but also spoke of the wonderful effect which had been produced by Mrs. Thomas in her special field, both in the Diocese of Pennsylvania and also in the Church at large.

The members of the Washington Chapel at once voted to take up this work and pledged their support to it. Mr. Burk appointed Miss Helen Wilson the parochial treasurer of the United Offering, and she entered upon her duties with an encouraging offering.

It is hoped that every woman in the parish will give something to the United Offering that she may have some part in this great movement for the extension of the Kingdom of God, especially through women workers in the mission fields.

Miss Wilson's address is Paoli, and she will be glad to send leaflets explaining the work, and also boxes for the offering.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

The annual meeting of the congregation of the Washington Memorial Chapel was held in the Parish House on Easter Monday, April 8. Mr. Edward H. Binns, General B. F. Fisher and Mr. Charles Wells Walker were elected vestrymen to serve for three years.

The report of the Treasurer showed a balance in the Treasury, and the financial condition of the Parish most encouraging. Mr. Quigg also presented a very complete report of the expenses incurred in the erection of the lodge of the Defendenrs' Gate. Mr. Leslie Jefferis presented the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Building Fund.

There was a general discussion of the affairs of the congregation and the Vestry was again authorized to proceed with the development of the cemetery and the erection of the ten feet on the walls of the nave of the Chapel.

Opening of the Gate House.

The Rector moved into the lodge of the Defenders' Gates on the 19th of January, but as the house was not finished and Mrs. Burk was ill there was no formal opening. Therefore, as soon after Easter as possible it was arranged to open the house to visitors that all the members of the parish and their friends might have the opportunity of inspecting this valuable addition to the Chapel property. The date announced in our last issue was the eleventh of April, and on that day many accepted the very cordial invitation which had been given. The wives of the vestrymen were the hostesses and they and Mr. Burk took pleasure in showing all

parts of this very complete house. We plan to print a description of the lodge in a later number of the Chronicle, but reference must be made to some of the furnishings. The handsome rubber trees, ferns and foliage plants were the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hoisington, as was also the rug in the dining room. The large circular rug in the library was the gift of Mr. William Montague, and was woven at his factory, the Coral Manufacturing Company, Norristown. The rugs in the halls were the gifts of members of the Guild, the work being Mr. Montague's contribution.

The hostesses did their part well, and everyone was made to feel at home. Refreshments were served throughout the afternoon and evening, and the dining room was filled time and again with many parties.

An unexpected feature of the occasion, at least on the part of the Rector, was the presentation of a purse of gold "for his own use." The presentation took place in the library. The secret had been well kept and Mr. Burk's complete surprise was greatly enjoyed by those who had planned the gift. The purse was presented in the name of his friends by Mrs. Mary E. Pechin. Mr. Burk responded to the cordial words of the speaker, heartily thanking all who had a part in the surprise, and expressing his great appreciation of his parishioners' thoughtfulness.

Relic of the "Maine."

Some time ago a movement was begun to secure a relic of the "Maine" for the Valley Forge Museum of American History. The Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Navy took up the matter, but found the Museum did not come within the classes favored by the Act for the distribution of "Maine" relics. Undaunted, the friends of the Museum appealed to the borough of Norristown to make the application on behalf of the Museum. The borough Council with true patriotism acted favorably and the formal copy of the request was forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy. We have every assurance that the matter will be favorably considered, and that the Government will present a relic of the "Maine" to the Valley Forge Museum of American History.

In the meanwhile we desire to express our appreciation of the action of the Norristown Councilmen.

Washington Memorial Library.

George Barrie and Sons have sold five more sets of their Washington Memorial Edition of the History of North America, and as a result $50 have been added to the Endowment Fund of the Washington Memorial Library. The Fund now amounts to $650, $11.61 interest having been paid the Treasurer of the Parish.

The Delaware Bay.

Work has so far advanced on the Delaware Bay that it is confidently expected that it will be ready for dedication on Evacuation Day, June 19th. The Governors of Delaware and Pennsylvania will be invited. Bishop Kinsman will prepare the form of services.

Mr. Reginald L. Hart has increased our collection of medals by the gift of the bronze medal struck to commemorate the Great Central Fair of the U. S. Sanitary Commission held at Philadelphia in June, 1864. The medal is 2¼ inches in diameter and ¼ inch in thickness. On the face is a scene of the relief of a suffering soldier, and the legend around it is: "We give our wealth for those who give their health for us." The reverse contains the following inscription: "In commemoration of the Great Central Fair for the U. S. Sanitary Commission held at Philadelphia, June, 1864." The medal is in an excellent state of preservation.